

Appendix C. External Situation Analysis

External Situation Analysis

Target Business/Community Partner Questions

Note: Questions below will be tailored so that they are relevant to the particular circumstances for each organization.

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the City of Renton's Office of Community & Economic Development and Suzanne Dale Estey, the Director of Economic Development for the City, we are reaching out to leading organizations in Renton to gather their input and ideas on the city's efforts to develop a Clean Economy Strategy.

The City is examining citywide energy use, talking with staff and the community, and providing recommendations on how the City can:

Reduce operating costs

Meet state mandates, qualify for funding opportunities, and be well positioned for future regulations and markets

Capitalize on opportunities for energy funding and investment

Identify new initiatives for a competitive, clean local economy

The purpose of this interview is to glean your perspective about opportunities in Renton. We'd like to hear if these areas are a priority for your organization and what strides you may be already taking. We'd also like to hear about any ideas you might have for how the City can be a leader as well as support your organization in these areas.

You may be aware that Renton is already engaging in a number of efforts to move towards a more efficient and cleaner economy. For example, the city is upgrading to more efficiency LED traffic signals, retrofitting buildings, piloting electric vehicle charging stations throughout the city, and partnering with Puget Sound Energy to help residents improve the efficiency of their homes.

Target Business/Community Partner Questions

GENERAL

1. Would you say that sustainability and energy efficiency are priorities in your organization? Are these values expressed by your management and leadership? What about your employees? Customers? Do you have a “champion” within your organization that focuses on the general set of issues we have discussed?
2. Do you have any specific successes or accomplishments related to sustainable practices, services, or products you would like to share (e.g. facilities, fleets, employee commuting, water use, solid waste and recycling, supply chain, training/education, other)?
3. Does your organization regularly track resource use (energy, water, waste)?

Target Business/Community Partner Questions

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

4. Has your organization made any specific energy upgrades to your facilities? If so, briefly describe.

VEHICLE FLEETS

5. Has your organization integrated (or does it plan to purchase) hybrid, alternative fuel, electric, or other high efficiency vehicles into its fleet? Does your organization actively support commute trip reduction programs?
6. Are you aware of an electric vehicle pilot project in our region? Would your organization be interested in more information about this and opportunities to install electric vehicle charging stations at your site? [Note: City is only providing charging stations and not vehicles.]

Target Business/Community Partner Questions

RENEWABLE ENERGY

7. Has your organization considered on-site renewable energy (e.g., solar arrays, wind generation), or other forms of innovative energy conservation (e.g., waste heat recovery)?
8. Is your organization currently supporting renewable energy through a utility or other program?

WATER

9. Is your organization a heavy water user? Have you taken advantage of any incentives, technologies, or programs to improve water efficiency?

WASTE

10. How would you describe your efforts related to recycling, composting, and minimizing waste? What might be the top one or two waste reduction opportunities in your organization? Are there areas or specific materials you'd like help with?

Target Business/Community Partner Questions

MATERIALS / SUPPLY CHAIN

11. Are you familiar with the “Shop Renton” program? Have you considered the locality of your own suppliers? Are you familiar with the term “green purchasing”? Do you use any “green” considerations in making supply chain decisions?

WRAP UP

12. How do you feel the City of Renton is doing overall when it comes to being green and sustainable more generally? Can you point to any specific activities? How important to you is it that the city makes progress in this regard?
13. What do you feel would be the top two or three things the City of Renton could do to assist you in moving forward in any of the topics we discussed?
14. Would your organization be interested in participating in future conversations with the City on advancing a more sustainable and competitive community? Would you be in support of the city creating a sustainable or green business recognition program?

